pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial assistance to the cyclone affected people of Gujarat has not yet been released by the Central Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that financial assistance announced to the tune of Rs. 200 crores and Rs. SO crores has since been released to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, as published in the Gujarati News Papers; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in releasing the financial assistance to Gujarat for the cyclone affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the State for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 116.12 crore has been released to the State for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. Advance Plan assistance of Rs. 200 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. SO crore to Karnataka has been released. The request of the State Government of Gujarat for assistance of Rs. 610.6S crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) is under process.

Committee to Probe Suicide of Farmers

2018. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level committee has been set up to probe into suicide deaths of farmers in different parts of the country, and for evolving a broad-based crop insurance scheme to avert, avoid or overcome the contingencies which led to suicide by fanners on failure of crops in large numbers in different States last year, and

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No High Level Committee was set up to probe into suicide deaths by farmers in different parts of the country. However, a Study Group was constituted in January, 1998 to examine the natur and extent of indebtedness of farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh and related issues. Details of constitution and terms of reference of the Study Group is given in the enclosed statement *(See* below).

The Study Group has since submitted its report. Follow-up action on the recommendations of the Study Group is being taken.

Statement

Composition of the Study Group:

1. Shri Bhagat Singh, Additional Secretary. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. — Chairman
2. Managing Director, Natioal Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. — Member
3. Additional Director General (Plant Protection), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). — Member
4. Shri I.D. Subba Rao, Vice Chancellor, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad. — Member
5. Commissisoner & Director of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad. — Member

The terms of reference of the Study Group:—

(i) To examine in depth the nature and extent of indebtedness among the farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the magnitude of its incidence particularly in respect of poor farmers;

(ii) To examine the present status of the role of informal sources of farm-credit in 'the State;

(iii) To identify constraints, if any, standing in the way of greater insitutionalisation of the flow of rural credit in 'the State and to suggest measures for increasing the role of public financial institutions (Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and the Cooperative Institutions) in the purvey al of credit to the agricultural and allied sectors.

(iv) To look into the question of farmers' access to quality inputs, viz., seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc., and to suggest measures to restrict the use of pesticides (specially Synthetic Pyrithroids), promote Integrated pest Management and to prevent the sale of spurious pesticides.

(v) To make such other recommendations on related issues as the Group may consider appropriate.

Cold Storage Facilities in Tripura

2019. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of acute shortage of cold storage facilities in Tripura;

(b) whether Govemment of Tripura has sent a proposal for granting financial assistance towards the construction of cold storages; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Govemment to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Tripura has submitted a proposal for release of Rs. 1262.S0 lakhs of financial assistance to the NABARD.

(c) The status of the proposal is being ascertained from NABARD.

Losses Due to Floods in Andhra Pradesh

2020. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern States, particularly, Andhra Pradesh have been badly affected due to flood in the month of October this year;

(b) if so, the details of special Central assistance granted to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to meet the situation;

(c) whether Government have seen any Central team to assess the extent of loss of lives and property held due to floods; and

(d) if so, the findings of the team and further action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala were affected by rains/ floods.

(b) Advance PIan assistance of Rs. 200 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. SO crore to Karnataka have been released.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Inter-Ministerial Central Teams have visited these States for assessment of the situation.

(d) The request of these State Governments are at various stages of process in accordance with the established procedure for assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Impact of Green Revolution on Employment Generation

2021. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is becoming uneconomical venture and leading to unemployment as is evident from the case of Punjab.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of Green Revolution on employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Agriculture continues to remain an economically viable venture as the value of output from agriculture has been showing an increasing trend. The agriculture output which was Rs. S687S crore at constant prices in 1980-81 has gone upto Rs. 89264 crore during 1995-96. The average daily number of workers in agriculture and allied sectors has also been registering an increasing trend. The number of estimated average daily workers which stood at 1426 thousands during 1971 increased to 3999 thousands during 1993. The green revolution